

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 21 through page 7, line 22 as follows:

Fig. 2 shows an exemplary arch expander appliance 100 that is removably replaceable over the patient's teeth. Usually, appliance 100 effects incremental expansion of individual teeth in the jaw. The exemplary appliance 100 includes a polymeric shell 102 and 104 having an inner cavity ~~120~~, a proximal edge ~~116~~, and a distal edge ~~118~~. The inner cavity ~~Cavity 120~~ is shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one tooth arrangement to a successive tooth arrangement. The polymeric shell will preferably, but not necessarily, fit over the posterior teeth present in the upper or lower jaw 108. ~~114~~. Often, only certain posterior teeth will be repositioned while others of the teeth will provide a base or anchor region for holding the repositioning appliance in place as it applies the resilient repositioning force against the tooth or teeth to be repositioned. The gums and/or the palette can also serve as an anchor region, thus allowing all or nearly all of the teeth to be repositioned simultaneously. Additionally, anchors and adhesives, which are described in more detail below, are available which may also serve as attachment points for appliance 100.

~~The shell 102 has two moveable portions 103 and 105. In one embodiment, shell portions 102 103 and 104 105 are held or anchored to each other through an expander 106. 124. The expander 106 124 may be a screw, spring, or any adjustable device that increases or decreases the separation of the portions 102 and 104. 103 and 105.~~

Once shell 102 is in position e.g. engaged with the posterior teeth, the shell provides the desired repositioning forces to the teeth. At such time as desired, shell 102 may then be expanded

by adjusting the screw or spring. The shell 102 may also be contracted to allow for easy removal of appliance 100.

When worn by the user, the shell 102 is forced down over teeth, typically by the patient biting down on the shell or by other forms of manual pressure being applied to the shell. The edges ~~Edges 116 and 118~~ are made to engage the posterior teeth.